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Since the last newsletter recounting the Syrian trip, the School has made only a few short jaunts. On Nov. 19 Father Harman, Dr. Whipple, Profs. Bess and Marks, and Director visited Tell el Ful (where Prof. Marks had the luck to pick up a stamped jar handle), Tell en Nasbeh, El Jib, Qubeibeh, Imwas, and Latroun.

At Qubeibeh, one of the two "traditional" sites of the Emmaus of Luke 24:13, we were shown over the excavations by Father Dominic, a Franciscan friar from Rhode Island. Although most of the ruins here, which were excavated by the Franciscans several years ago, are from Crusader times, the road along which the houses of this period were built is definitely the ancient Roman road between Jerusalem and Jaffa. Under many of these medieval house ruins were found the foundations of houses from the Hellenistic and Roman periods. The foundations of one of these Roman houses was enclosed, as "the house of Cleopas," within the large Crusader church that was built on this site. The present church was erected at the beginning of this century on the foundations of this Crusader structure. The distance of "sixty stadia" (a little less than seven miles) between Jerusalem and Emmaus, as given in Codex Vaticanus and most of the manuscripts and as accepted in almost all critical editions of the New Testament, agrees well with the distance of Qubeibeh from Jerusalem.

Later in the afternoon we went to 'Imwas, the rival site for N.T. Emmaus. But first we visited the Trappist monastery at neighboring Latroun, and the hospitality shown us did not allow time to examine Pere Vincent's excavations at 'Imwas. The arguments in favor of 'Imwas as N.T. Emmaus are well known: its modern name is derived from the ancient name, and its site is certainly that of the Emmaus-Nicopolis mentioned by Josephus for Maccabaeen times; moreover, it agrees (roughly) with the one-hundred-and-sixty stadia distance from Jerusalem, as given in Codex Sinaiticus and a few other manuscripts in Luke 24:13. But as we drove back to Jerusalem in the deepening twilight, we had the impression that, if Cleopas and his companion left 'Imwas "toward evening," with "the day now far spent," and reached Jerusalem before midnight, they must have been Marathon runners. 'Imwas is too far from Jerusalem, no matter how direct the ancient road may have been, for a one-day walk from Jerusalem and return.

On the evening of Nov. 21 Dr. Allen O. Whipple, Visiting Trustee Lecturer, presented a lecture entitled "The First Medical School and Hospital in the Near East." The lecture was attended by about 35 persons, including many doctors of Jerusalem. The purpose of the lecture was to show why the Nestorian Schools of Medicine and Hospitals became the connecting link between Greek Medicine and Arabic Medicine. The first Nestorian School was established in Edessa, now called Urfa, in southern Turkey, in 364 A.D. When the Nestorians were expelled from Edessa in 489 A.D., because of their unorthodox doctrines, they were given asylum in the Sassanian city of Ghondi-Shapur, in southwestern

Persia. There they rebuilt their Medical School and Hospital, and took with them their Syriac translations of Greek Medicine. After the Moslem Conquest they translated their Syriac texts of Greek Medicine into Arabic. The speaker told of his efforts to locate the sites of these Nestorian Schools and Hospitals.

Dr. Whipple continues his travels in search of information about medieval hospitals. He and Prof. Marks drove to Damascus and Aleppo and took a side trip to Palmyra. (They had the interesting experience of car trouble in the Syrian desert at night, but were lucky to coax the car to a Tapline station where the clogged gas line was cleared.)

On Nov. 27 the entire School group, including the children, made it a field day with a visit to NT and OT Jericho, the Musa Alami experimental farm, and lastly attended a wedding in Jericho. The groom was Musa who worked at El Jib and Petra this past summer and has at last become sufficiently affluent to acquire a wife. We of the School, as honored guests, were seated in the center of the mees. Relatives and friends danced while Musa sat at table being worked over by a barber. By the time the groom had been groomed and perfumed, it was getting dark, but he insisted we see the bride before leaving. We drove to the bride's house and after considerable wait, we saw the bespangled beauty by lantern light. We regretted that we had to depart before the bride came to the groom's house to perform the wedding dance.

On the morning of Dec. 3 the School Group visited the Haram area under the guidance of Mr. Aref el Aref, former mayor of Jerusalem and author of A History of the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque, 1955 (Arabic). We were joined on this tour by Prof. and Mrs. Jack Finegan of Pacific School of Religion and Mrs. K. K. Bechtel also of California. The Dome is under extensive repair and it will be some time before it is completed.

Dec. 5 Dr. Taufik Canaan presented a lecture at the School on "Daily Palestinian Life and Bible Parallels." Dr. Canaan has collected materials on Palestinian folklore for half a century, beginning as a young physician visiting the villages on horseback. The lecture was spiced with delightful anecdotes and folk tales illustrative of the survival of ancient beliefs, customs, and modes of thought. Some fifty persons attended the lecture.

After a hiatus of some twenty years, excavations have been resumed at Teleilat Ghassul, the important chalcolithic site in the Jordan Valley (ca. 4 miles east of the new Hussein Bridge). The site was excavated in 1929-34 by Mallon and in 1936-38 by Koepfel. The war halted the work just when brilliant discoveries were being made and the death of both excavators left the project incomplete, with many important questions unanswered. The Pontifical Biblical Institute of Rome has taken up the work anew. The excavation is under the direction of Father Robert North, S.J. Two veterans of the former Ghassul digs, Father Henri Senès of Marseilles and Brother Antonio Vives of Barcelona, are on the staff, the former as surveyor and the latter as field-supervisor. Father Louis Hartman of the Catholic University of America, Secretary of the Catholic Biblical Association, and current-

ly Annual Professor at the ASOR, is serving as Registrar and Professor S. Herbert Bess of Grace Theological Seminary, Annual Fellow at the ASOR is serving as supervisor. The work began Dec. 4, 1959 and will continue, inshallah, until Feb. 20, 1960. Some fifty workmen are employed. The plan is to work within a swathe of 240x20 meters which will take in the three principal fruitful areas of past operations. It is hoped to find considerable architectural remains which may answer the question whether Ghassul has "apse houses" or other features of related chalcolithic sites. It is also hoped that the present digging may result in a continuous stratification linking the little mounds (tulaylat) and making it possible to correlate the various "levels" of the former digs.

A week before Christmas, Omar's family was blessed with the arrival of a daughter who was given the name Miryam. The Sunday before Christmas we permanent "guests" of the School treated ourselves and the staff and their families to a party at the Director's House. Festivities included making a large tree (i.e. stuffing hedge clippings in a chicken-wire cone), Arab dancing, and gifts for all the children (17) and the staff.

On Christmas Eve members and guests of the School attended the carol service at Tell Boaz, the Y.M.C.A. Shepherds' Field. The Christmas Story was read in English and Arabic, the readings interspersed with carols. The sermon by Dr. Helffrich struck the notes of tragedy and hope in this Refugee Year. The service was well attended. Art Linkletter was on hand making movies and recordings, so it may be that this service will be reproduced on TV. In the evening some of the School members and guests attended the Midnight Solemn High Mass in St. Catherine's Church in Bethlehem while others went to services in Jerusalem. Christmas Day was passed quietly at the School. Omar prepared a sumptuous meal featuring turkey from the Musa Alami farm in Jericho and blazing plum pudding. In the evening a buffet supper in the Director's House and charades provided a happy conclusion to a very pleasant day.

On Boxing Day a group from the School took a trip to Ajlun to examine the Arab castle. Professors Qalayan and Baggaley of the American University of Beirut School of Engineering accompanied us. Prof. Qalayan is interested in the toolmarks on masonry as a means of determining the provenience of the workmen. The castle at Ajlun is most impressive, though not quite so grand as Krak des Chevaliers in Lebanon. From the top of the castle we could see the Jordan snaking its way in the distance. The wind was very strong at the summit. On the way to Ajlun we stopped to look at Tell Deir Alla, a magnificent mound now on the point of being excavated by a Dutch expedition under the direction of Dr. Heinrich Franken of Leiden.

Ray Cleveland dropped in at the School a couple of times at the end of December. He is on his way to Oman to participate in an archeological expedition with Wendell Phillips.

Will Oxtoby was not feeling well during the holidays and discovered soon after Christmas that he had jaundice and hepatitis. He has been

in bed now for about two weeks but he is in good spirits and able to do some work on the scrolls to help while away the time.

Christmas lasts a long time here in the Holy Land. The Greek Orthodox, Syrian, and Coptic services were attended by a group from the School on Jan. 6. The Armenian celebration Jan. 18 will finish the season.

Mr. Peter Parr and Miss Diana Kirkbride supplied the following accounts of their recent excavations:

Since the writing of the account which appeared in Newsletter No. 3, another ten weeks work has been done in Petra by the British School. For most of this period the Jordanian Department of Antiquities also participated in the work, concerning itself chiefly with the clearance of the deposits overlying the Roman paved street, thus continuing the work sponsored by the Department in 1954 and 1956.

The various trenches described in the previous account were extended and deepened, and several new ones were opened up. Of these latter the most important were at the base of the N.E. corner of the so-called Qasr el-Bint, the 2nd. century A.D. Roman temple which is the only well preserved free-standing monument in Petra today. These trenches revealed that the temple originally stood on a podium over 2m. high, the walls of which, in part at least, were faced with slabs of fine white marble. At the base of the podium were uncovered the remains of a paved area, no doubt the temenos of the temple. From the debris lying on this paving came a wealth of architectural and sculptured fragments which will, when studied, throw much light on the art of the Roman province of Arabia. This new information completely alters our idea of the original appearance of the Qasr el-Bint and makes obsolete the various essays in reconstruction of previous scholars.

By the end of the season over half of the Monumental Gateway had also been cleared, and deep trenches had penetrated the pre-Gate levels beneath. It is now possible to walk through the central and northern passageways of the Gate on the original paving slabs. It has been proved that the Gate is later than the paved street, and is almost certainly the entrance to the Qasr el-Bint temple precinct.

On the Katute ridge, the building first discovered in 1958 was further excavated and more of its interesting plan revealed. In this area there is now known to be at least 9m. of stratified archaeological deposit; and bed-rock has not yet been reached. The deep soundings in this region have amply justified the time and care spent on them, for they have produced a mass of material for a dated sequence of Roman and Nabataean pottery, the securing of which was one of the original aims of the excavations. Most interesting of all, a definitely early style of Nabataean painted ware, easily distinguishable from the usual variety, has been discovered in the lowest levels, stratified with sherds and lamps of Hellenistic rather than Roman inspiration. It is hoped to get some precise dating evidence for this early phase when the many coins found this year have been

cleaned and identified.

During her second season at the Pre-pottery Neolithic village at Seyl Aqlat, Baidha near Petra, Diana Kirkbride found striking parallels with the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (Plaster Floor) of Jericho, (See Newsletter #3). A further, and earlier, complex of small rooms opening off corridors like stalls in a stable was uncovered. Plaster floors, including a large courtyard, and macabre headless skeletons were found, calling to mind similar finds at Jericho. Among other fascinating things, she found what seems to have been the butcher shop; a small room crammed with jointed animals and horned heads. Across the corridor was a room full of heavy stone implements, perhaps the butcher's equipment. The village is situated on what may have been then, as later, the trade route from the Red Sea north to Jericho and East Jordan, and west to Gaza and may well be one of a number of staging posts on that route. Its extreme isolation has prevented it from being used as a quarry, and for this reason it is an excellent place to find evidence for house and village plans, and the whole village economy of that remote period.

Miss Kirkbride also spent two months in the Wadi Rum area in the southern desert of East Jordan. Here her most important find was a pre-Islamic sanctuary. As this is the first of its kind yet found, and in the absence of pottery there are no known parallels for the finds, it is difficult to date the site. The Thamudites seem the most likely people to have made the sanctuary, and its destruction in the first days of Islam would be easy to infer. However, certain aspects noted during the excavations lead Miss Kirkbride to think it may well be earlier. The sanctuary is a circle, 20 metres in diameter, around which stood very many figures of men and women crudely carved on slabs of sandstone. These figures are attempts at individual portraiture and may well be memorials set up in a sanctuary, a practice which could in time lead to the worship of idols. Most of the figures had been violently smashed or defaced, but about 200 recognisable fragments were found, which, taken in conjunction with a far larger number of unidentifiable fragments suggests that originally there were well over 300 of these figures. Smashed stone bowls of unique design, some bearing geometric patterns in bands of raised relief were also found.

Best wishes for happy new year!

Marvin H. Pope
Director
Jerusalem School